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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 31 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and with reference to the repeated letters from the representative of the Syrian regime, the latest of which is dated 25 August 2016, and our responses to those letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, I should like to state the following:

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan absolutely and categorically rejects the futile and deceptive accusations that the Syrian regime and its representative persist in inventing. Those claims have no basis in fact and no credibility. They are merely a pathetic attempt to negate Jordan's noble efforts to help the States and peoples of the region, particularly the Syrian people, 1.3 million of whom Jordan has received on its territory.

The representative of the Syrian regime has continued to spout manipulative and futile accusations. He has distorted the facts regarding what is happening inside Syria, facts that are clear to the Syrian people and all of the peoples and States of the world. This farrago of lies and delusions is both repugnant and monotonous, and he is the only one still listening. Instead, he ought to address the humanitarian situation inside Syria and the extensive destruction, killings and forced displacement to which Syria and its people have fallen victim. This campaign of abuse against my country contravenes all relevant international norms and conventions, and it requires a firm response on the part of the Security Council and the international community.

The representative of the Syrian regime will not be successful in his attempt to create a new narrative that defies reality and logic, and to entangle Jordan in a web of fantasies that he has spun in order to cover up his regime's failure to reach a political solution to the crisis in Syria. By persisting in sending his deceptive letters, the representative of the Syrian regime is making a vain attempt to distract the members of the Security Council. Jordan trusts that they are aware of what is happening. His aim is to disrupt the work of the Security Council and impede the development of a political so'ution to the crisis that would spare the lives of the Syrian people.

Jordan has made considerable efforts to help the Syrian refugees; it has done at least as much as any other party, if not more The leadership, Government and people of Jordan have opened their hearts, as well as their homes, to their Syrian

brethren fleeing disaster. We have shared our limited resources with them, and we have not stopped providing them with essential services, despite the economic and financial burden that such work entails. However, the representative of the Syrian regime apparently cannot or will not see any of this. He does not want to recognize the reality of what is happening in Syria. Caught up in the specious illusions that he has been peddling, he has lost his bearings and taken to spouting baseless allegations.

Jordan reiterates its consistent position of rejecting terrorism and extremism in all their forms, whatever their motivation. Jordan is fully committed to implementing the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council. During its time as a member of the Council, Jordan played a valuable role in drafting those resolutions and securing their adoption. In so doing, it clearly demonstrated its commitment to combating terrorist organizations in Syria and elsewhere. Jordan will remain at the forefront of any genuine, sincere endeavour to combat terrorism, so that its own people and the peoples of the region and the world can live in safety and security. The Security Council must not allow the representative of the Syrian regime to continue misleading the international community regarding the reality of what is happening in Syria. Regional and international actors have been working to combat terrorism, bring an end to the fighting in Syria and resume the political process under the auspices of the United Nations. The representative of the Syrian regime cannot be allowed to thwart those efforts. The Security Council should press the regime to respect the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2254 (2015); the resolutions of the General Assembly; the provisions of international humanitarian law; and the principles of human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sima **Bahous**
Permanent Representative

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Letter dated 1 September 2016 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to the letter dated 25 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations, I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Security Council have agreed to send a mission to South Sudan and Addis Ababa during the period from 2 to 5 September 2016. The members of the Council have agreed on the terms of reference for the mission (see annex).

Ambassador Samantha Power (United States of America) and Ambassador Fodé Seck (Senegal) will co-lead the mission.

Following consultations with the members, it has been agreed that the composition of the mission is as follows:

Ambassador Julio Helder Moura **Lucas** (Angola)

Mr. **Shen** Bo (China)

Mr. Ihab Moustafa Awad **Moustafa** (Egypt)

Mr. Alexis **Lamek** (France)

Ambassador Yoshifumi **Okamura** (Japan)

Mrs. Siti Hajjar **Adnin** (Malaysia)

Ambassador Phillip **Taula** (New Zealand)

Mr. Petr **Iliichev** (Russian Federation)

Ambassador Fodé **Seck** (Senegal)

Ambassador Juan Manuel **González de Linares Palou** (Spain)

Mr. Yuriy **Vitrenko** (Ukraine)

Ambassador Peter **Wilson** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Ambassador Samantha **Power** (United States of America)

Ambassador Luis Homero **Bermúdez Alvarez** (Uruguay)

Mr. Zael Alexis **Fernández Rivera** (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of))

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gerard **van Bohemen**
President of the Security Council

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Annex

Terms of reference for the Security Council mission to South Sudan and Addis Ababa in September 2016, to be co-led by the United States of America and Senegal

Mission to South Sudan from 2 to 5 September 2016

1. To reinforce the messages contained in Security Council resolutions 2252 (2015) and 2304 (2016), presidential statements S/PRST/2016/1 and S/PRST/2016/3 and the statements to the press on South Sudan of 4 May and 1, 9 and 10 July 2016.

2. To reiterate the full support of the Security Council for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, in its efforts to foster peace and security in South Sudan.

Political process

3. To emphasize that there can be no military solution to the situation in South Sudan and that the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (the Agreement) is the framework for durable peace, reconciliation and national cohesion in South Sudan.

4. To express the Security Council's concern about the state of the political process and engage the Transitional Government of National Unity and civil society, including women's representatives, on the impact on South Sudan's communities and their views about next steps.

5. To inquire about upcoming political reforms and action in the fields covered by the Agreement, including institutional affairs, security arrangements, humanitarian conditions, the economic situation, and justice and accountability.

6. To encourage the Transitional Government of National Unity to create an enabling environment for all parties to work through the Transitional Government of National Unity to genuinely commit themselves to the full and immediate implementation of the Agreement, in order to foster a swift improvement of the situation of the South Sudanese people.

7. To urge the parties to work together in the Transitional Government of National Unity to resolve their differences in the spirit of cooperation and to remind the political leaders of South Sudan of their responsibility for national unity and reconciliation and to take concrete steps towards nation-building.

8. To express support for the efforts of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and regional organizations to help to address the political and security crisis.

Security situation

9. To engage the Transitional Government of National Unity, consistent with Security Council resolutions 2252 (2015) and 2304 (2016), presidential statements S/PRST/2016/1 and S/PRST/2016/3 and the statements to the press of 4 May and 1, 9 and 10 July 2016, and to express the Security Council's serious concern about

the rampant violence and the systematic impeding of the ability of UNMISS to operate ahead of the report of the Secretary-General to the Council on progress.

10. To express the Security Council's grave alarm about the security situation, including its concern over the ongoing violence and its dire humanitarian consequences, as well as to express concern over widespread sexual and gender-based violence and ethnic clashes throughout the country, and to urge an immediate end to fighting throughout the country.

11. To underscore the urgent need to halt all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, to hold accountable those responsible for crimes of sexual and gender-based violence committed during the recent clashes in Juba and throughout the country during the conflict, and to prevent further attacks. To further urge the Sudan People's Liberation Army and the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition to take concrete, specific and time-bound steps towards implementing their respective joint communiqués with the United Nations, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2106 (2013) and 2252 (2015).

12. To reiterate to the Transitional Government of National Unity that attacks against civilians and United Nations premises and personnel are unacceptable and may constitute war crimes, to emphasize the importance of transparent investigations by the Transitional Government of National Unity into such crimes, and to stress the importance of members of military forces and any other individuals being held accountable for their actions.

13. To reiterate its strong condemnation of all human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, and to underscore to the Transitional Government of National Unity the pressing need for accountability for violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law in South Sudan, including ongoing violations and abuses that have been reported since the Agreement was signed in August 2015 and since the outbreak of violence in Juba in July 2016, in order to break the prevailing cycle of impunity, and to encourage the Government of South Sudan to cooperate with the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan created by the Human Rights Council.

14. To receive information from the Transitional Government of National Unity, civilians, internally displaced persons, including those in the UNMISS protection of civilians sites, and members of civil society, including women's organizations, about conditions on the ground and the ability of civilians to move around safely and securely in South Sudan.

15. To express grave concern at the threat to peace and security in South Sudan arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

16. To underline that the Security Council expressed in its resolution 2290 (2016) its intent to impose any sanctions that may be appropriate to respond to the situation, which may include an arms embargo and the designation of senior individuals responsible for actions or policies that threaten the peace, security or stability of South Sudan, and further stated in its resolution 2304 (2016) its intent to consider appropriate measures, including an arms embargo, in case of political or operational impediments to operationalizing the Regional Protection Force or obstructions to UNMISS in performance of its mandate due to the actions of the Transitional Government of National Unity.

Mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

17. To assess the level of cooperation between the Transitional Government of National Unity and UNMISS in the fulfilment by UNMISS of its mandate to protect civilians under threat of physical violence, to monitor and investigate human rights violations and abuses, to facilitate the conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to support the implementation of the Agreement.

18. To demand that the Transitional Government of National Unity comply with the obligations set out in the status-of-forces agreement between the Government of South Sudan and the United Nations, and immediately cease obstruction of UNMISS in the performance of its mandate, including allowing unhindered freedom of movement.

19. To urge the Transitional Government of National Unity to engage with UNMISS to deploy the UNMISS Regional Protection Force and to stress the need for the Transitional Government of National Unity to provide support as needed for the UNMISS Regional Protection Force to fulfil its mission.

20. To express its intention to review the results of ongoing consultations between the Transitional Government of National Unity and the States of the region referenced in the communiqué of 5 August 2016 of the second extraordinary summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development "IGAD plus" group on the situation in South Sudan and to consider potential action, including any appropriate updates to the mandate of the Regional Protection Force, arising from the results of those consultations.

21. To assess the ability and willingness of UNMISS to fulfil its mandate to protect civilians under threat of physical violence, including civilians in the protection of civilians sites, and humanitarian personnel, and to underscore to the Government of South Sudan that the primary responsibility for the protection of civilians in South Sudan remains with the Transitional Government of National Unity.

22. To reiterate to all parties the need to allow, in accordance with relevant provisions of international law and United Nations guiding principles of emergency humanitarian assistance, full, safe and unhindered access of relief personnel, equipment and supplies, timely delivery of humanitarian assistance and the importance of holding accountable those responsible for blocking, looting or otherwise interfering with humanitarian assistance and aid workers.

United Nations Mission in South Sudan forces

23. To stress the need for UNMISS to make full use of its authority to use all means necessary to carry out its mandate as set out in resolution 2252 (2015)

24. To stress the importance of ensuring adequate protection of UNMISS and other United Nations personnel in the light of the attacks against UNMISS personnel and premises, so that UNMISS can effectively implement its mandate.

25. To stress the need for proper command and control, as well as for proper knowledge of the rules of engagement.

Mission to Addis Ababa on 5 September 2016

26. To engage regional partners on the political and security dimensions of the crisis in South Sudan and consult with them on the deployment of the UNMISS Regional Protection Force.

27. To receive a briefing on the efforts of the African Union to establish the Hybrid Court for South Sudan.

28. To support and encourage continued engagement by regional partners to address the political and security crisis in South Sudan.